# News Archive

#### **Campus Alberta Neuroscience Symposia 2015**



September 10, 2015

Join Campus Alberta Neuroscience on October 28-30 in Calgary for Symposium 2015, a multi-focus neuroscience and mental health event. Two back-to-back symposia will bring together top researchers and trainees in depression research and the general neurosciences.

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## Caribees Singing and Dance Association supports research into natural products for neuroprotection



September 9, 2015 Thank you to Michael Dabreo, President together with Marie Elaine, Treasurer and the Executive body of the Caribees Singing and Dance Association for their support of research into natural products for neuroprotection being led by HBI researcher, Dr. Wee Yong.

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## Program gives students opportunity to work in labs for the summer



August 27, 2015

This summer, grade 11 student, Andrew Panteluk is a participant in the 2015 Heritage Youth Researcher Summer (HYRS) program at the University of Calgary. He is working in the laboratory of HBI member Marc Poulin, PhD, looking at ways to improve the thinking, memory, and cognitive function of the aging brain in senior citizens. <u>View CTV feature</u>.

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### HBI postdoctoral scholar awarded fellowship for research transforming acute stroke triage

#### August 14, 2015

Christopher d'Esterre is an HBI trainee researching computed tomography (CT) perfusion scanning for quick assessment of acute stroke, and how it can inform treatment. He his the recipient of the 2015 T. Chen Fong Fellowship in Medical Imaging Science.

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# Caribees Singing and Dance Association supports research into natural products for neuroprotection



Neurons, our brain's nerve cells, die from a variety of injuries. These include stroke, spinal cord injury, concussions and multiple sclerosis. Neurons also die with the aging process and are lost prematurely in dementias such as Alzheimer's disease. Means to protect neurons following such injuries may help prevent subsequent disability. The availability of potentially protective natural products consumed to promote healthy brain aging may reduce the occurrence of strokes or protect against the development of Alzheimer's disease.

A long-term interest in research on natural products has led Aldo Bruccoleri, PhD, a chemist and Research Professor at Burman University, Lacombe, to collaborate with V. Wee Yong, PhD, of the Hotchkiss Brain Institute, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary. They have uncovered

natural products that not only neutralize the toxic damage to neurons, but also stimulate the protective brain immune cell, microglia. Uniquely, the natural products conferred a protective memory onto neurons, so that future injuries were less harmful to the neurons. These results invite the promise of new treatments based on natural product extracts to counter the toxic environment in the brain following neural injury; they also suggest that the protective extracts may be used as a lifestyle choice to confer healthy brain aging or to reduce the undesirable consequences of future insults to the brain such as in concussion, stroke or dementias.

More about Yong's research can be found on his website: http://www.ucalgary.ca/~vyong